

the study. The last of these groups accounts for only one-quarter of the whole.

When reading such a book as this, it is easy to enter wholeheartedly into the spirit of the inquiry, and to follow the account and the argument from page to page much as one might read a detective novel uncritically for the sweep of the narrative and the pursuit of the clues. Detective novels too often lose the attention of their reader as the improbabilities mount and his critical faculties reassert themselves. This book holds the attention throughout. Its approach seems sound, and its conclusions appear to be both justified and—taken along with the findings of other surveys in the same geographical area—of some value to Governmental and private agencies vitally interested in arresting excessive growth of population in the Caribbean.

P. R. C.

Szabady, Egon (Editor). *Studies on Fertility and Social Mobility*. Proceedings of the International Demographic Congress Symposium, Budapest, 20–30th, November, 1962. Budapest, 1964. Akadémiai Kiadó. Pp. 331. Price not stated.

THE PAPERS OF this conference were grouped into six classes:

Family size and fertility (five papers);

Forecasts and international comparability of fertility (four papers);

Social re-stratification and its demographic effects (five papers);

Demographic differences between village and town (seven papers);

Structural changes caused by migration (four papers);

Socio-occupational connexions of marriage and divorce (four papers).

All the papers are reprinted in English in the *Proceedings*, and in addition there is a full record of the discussions, which is worth reading.

Nearly all the forty participants came from the communist states of Eastern Europe, and this regional interest is apparent in the papers—for instance “differentials” are measured between groups of a somewhat different character from what one would find in the West. Nevertheless, many of the features one has in the past associated with Russia and the area of its influence

are absent: dialectic is here largely replaced by data; there are hardly any strictures on capitalism and few even on Malthus; and the work of demographers all over the world is recognised and given due credit.

One of the most recent demographic developments in any part of the world in recent years has been the very sharp fall in the birth rate in Eastern Europe, and it might have been expected that, in a discussion devoted to fertility held in 1962 in this area, some light might have been thrown on this development. In fact, although the change is recorded in some of the figures quoted, little is said about it. Thus in a paper on the subject of the impact of new Socialism on the birth and death rates of the Roumanian people, the decline in the birth rate from 24.2 per thousand in 1956 to 17.5 per thousand in 1961 is referred to—quite dispassionately, and without any mention of “decadence”—in terms of economic development, a better standard of life and the movement from villages to towns. There is a very brief reference to the abolition of restrictions concerning induced abortions, but otherwise birth control is not mentioned. From a scientific point of view, the omission of any reference to the methods of control is a serious weakness; if there have been abortions, the effect on the mothers' health ought to have been discussed. From a political viewpoint, however, the omission is probably very tactful.

In Yugoslavia the fall in the birth rate has also been marked in recent years, but as this represents a continuation of the forty-year trend there is, perhaps, less cause to single it out. At any rate, it is not discussed in a paper in which there was ample opportunity to do so: the author merely states that the various changes that have occurred “for the most part can be regarded as positive”.

These two papers appeared in the section entitled “Social Re-stratification and its Demographic Effects”, where they appear somewhat out of place. The remaining three contributions in this section are more orthodox in their references to social mobility and show something of the effects of the economic and political development of recent years. Dr. Miltényi, of Hungary, writes on the impact of heterogeneous marriages on birth control, but speaks only of

the relative numbers of women "child-bearing" and "inducedly aborting" (*sic*) according to broad occupation groups of husband and wife in combination. He does not find very much of significance in this analysis. There is virtually nothing in the whole volume to throw any real light on differential fertility—and, of course, nothing whatever on eugenics.

A paper on fertility, marriages and family in the USSR is, again somewhat inappropriately, grouped with others under the heading of demographic differences between village and town. It quotes age-specific fertility rates, and the distribution of births by order, for various recent years and some figures for family size for women of various ages classified according to duration of employment. These data appear in fact to have been derived from sample surveys, which is in itself interesting. Here again the references to the course of fertility are guarded, but it is excellent to see the figures displayed and to read the objective discussion upon them. In Russia the decline in fertility has been comparatively slow—only a 10 per cent fall in the birth rate in the last decade, and the rate of natural increase has remained fairly constant at 1.75 per cent per annum. There are signs, however, that the fall in fertility may be quickening. The author (Mme. Vostrikova) says that "Those who consider the permission of abortions and the development of contraceptive measures in the socialist countries as a deviation from the Marxist views on the increase in the population are in the wrong".

It is not possible in this review to refer adequately to all the papers, but some mention should be made of two with especially interesting titles: an Austrian contribution on "The impact of the structural changes of society on marriages and divorces" and one by a Hungarian author on "Socio-occupational structure of families". The first of these is of a moralizing character and is not objective or statistical; it briefly paints a sad picture of modern Austrian life. When contrasted with the cheerful commentaries from the countries further east, it shows that propaganda is becoming much more subtle than it used to be. The second paper is also very brief, and it fails to mention to what country the figures quoted in it relate; and socio-

occupational distributions it gives are interesting but do not throw any light on differential fertility—if there is any—because the demographic characteristics and ages of the family members included are not stated.

As has been indicated above, the discussions are worth reading, and like the papers they are rendered into reasonably good English. The spirit of the discussions is very much in keeping with the papers, but the points of elucidation arising from the debates do add materially to the somewhat guarded interpretations given in the written contributions. For instance, Mme. Vostrikova's spirited defence of mothers in the Soviet Union who bear very large numbers of children, and her references to the fall in the birth rate as being an after-effect of the War, suggest that she for one does not feel that fertility should or will fall further in Russia, in spite of her remarks, recorded earlier in this review, concerning contraception in relation to Marxist theory.

P. R. C.

WORLD RESOURCES

FAO/UN. *The State of Food and Agriculture 1964*. Rome, 1964. FAO. Pp. ix + 240. Price 30s.

THIS ADMIRABLE ANNUAL volume has the usual sensible foreword from Dr. Sen, the Director-General of FAO. The proximity of two great conferences, that of 1963 on World Food and that of 1964 on Trade and Development, "has brought out how closely linked are the problems with which they deal. Freedom from hunger can come only from the economic development of the poor countries, where at present the health and well-being of so many . . . are severely impaired by the inadequacy of their diets". Despite all direct aid, the dependence upon foreign exchange earnings is fundamental, and those earnings "come predominantly from the export of agricultural products".

"For many years now the agricultural export earnings of the developing countries have been increasing only very slowly . . . and have failed to provide them with their requirements for a satisfactory rate of economic growth." However, this picture has recently changed somewhat for the better, though perhaps only in an ephemeral